



**NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION MEETING**

**Olofson Shooting Range.** The Natural Resource Commission met on August 10, 2017, at the Olofson Shooting Range located in Polk City. The Olofson Shooting Range has been closed since December 2016 to remove old structures in order to construct a new building. The new building is scheduled to open to the public in October 2017. The building has a classroom that will be used for meetings and for educational opportunities, such as hunter safety courses. Recreational opportunities include shooting ranges, a skeet shoot area, and an archery area.

**Olofson Shooting Range Building**



**Director's Remarks.** Director of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Chuck Gipp, talked about the dedication of the Avenson Archery Range on July 18, 2017. The archery range is located at Volga River State Recreation Area in Fayette County. The dedication was in memory of Don Avenson, who lived near the area and served as a member of the Iowa House of Representatives from 1972 to 1990. His achievements include the creation of the Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Program and the Groundwater Protection Act.

**Contracts.** The Natural Resource Commission approved the following contracts:

- A contract with the city of Des Moines for up to \$258,000 for engineering and design services at the Easter Lake Watershed project.
- A contract with Jones County for \$109,000 for a boat ramp and parking lot located at Central Park Lake.
- A contract with Story County for up to \$93,000 to implement watershed practices at Hickory Grove Park. This includes stabilization of the lake shoreline.
- A contract with the Conservation Corps for \$174,000 to complete habitat projects and remove invasive species from land owned by the DNR.

**Land Acquisitions.** The Commission approved the following land acquisitions:

- The sale of 1.8 acres in Winneshiek County adjacent to the Bluffton Fir Stand Wildlife Management Area. The land was purchased from an estate and the plan was to remove all buildings; however, there is a home located on the land that is eligible to be on the National Register of Historic Places. The house and land was sold for \$5,000, but the buyer is required to pay a preservation easement monitoring fee to the Office of the State Archeologist.
- The donation of 2.2 acres in Wright County adjacent to the Elm Lake Wildlife Management Area.

- The purchase of 53 acres in Sac County for \$55,000. The land will be used to provide public access to hunting, fishing, and other outdoor activities.
- The purchase of 212 acres in Clarke County for \$496,000. The land has a permanent conservation easement and is adjacent to West Lake. The land will be used to provide public access to hunting, fishing, and other outdoor activities.
- The purchase of 253 acres in Allamakee County for \$789,000. The land is part of the former Tahigwa Girl Scout Camp and will be used to provide public access to hunting, fishing, and other outdoor activities.

**Next Meeting.** The next meeting will be held on September 14 in Storm Lake. For additional information, see the Natural Resource Commission [website](#).

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